

REPORT ON COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR PEDIATRIC HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING.

Country: RWANDA	
Project title and duration:	Community mobilization for Pediatric HIV Testing and counselling (HTCT) to advance the Fast Track Agenda in Rwanda
Implementing partner:	Network of People Living with HIV (RRP+)
Brief description of project:	<p>1. Background</p> <p>Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV in partnership with UNAIDS-Kigali office initiated a pilot project on “Community mobilization for Paediatric HIV Testing and counselling (HTCT) to advance the Fast Track Agenda in Rwanda” that will be implemented in the three districts of Kigali city, Rubavu and Musanze. These sites were selected based on the experience of Peer Education for Adherence Referral and Linkages (PEARL) program and also Kigali city for its high HIV prevalence rates compared to other districts. The project is expected to inform further planning and potential extension to other sites and districts and will primarily target the members of RRP+ associations.</p> <p>2. Implementation</p> <p>To implement this joint program RRP+ in collaboration with UNAIDS, organized two sessions of Advocacy and Orientation meetings, one in Kigali City, the other in Rubavu district that targeted different partners and stakeholders including People living with HIV members of RRP+, health facilities, private clinics and local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community mobilization for Pediatric HIV Testing and counselling (HTCT) to advance the Fast Track Agenda in Kigali City <p>It has been an advocacy and Orientation meeting that targeted different partners and stakeholders including People living with HIV members of RRP+, health facilities, private clinics and local authorities from Gasabo, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge districts. It was held on 28th July 2015 at Kigali Classic Hotel.</p> <p>This meeting mainly aimed at advocating for and raising awareness on community mobilization to increase uptake of Pediatric HIV testing Treatment and counseling services. Specifically it aimed to present the evidence on AIDS epidemic and its relevance with pediatric VCT care and treatment; advocate for health service provider to support in the implementation and ownership for scaling-up of pediatric care and treatment as well as identify priority actions and messages for community mobilization to advance the Fast Track in the context of pediatric treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community mobilization for Pediatric HIV Testing and counselling (HTCT) to advance the Fast Track Agenda in Rwanda

Rubavu, September 2nd - 3rd 2015.

After an advocacy and orientation meeting that was held at Kigali which targeted people living with HIV members of RRP+, partners, health facilities, and officials from the three districts of Kigali City, RRP+ in collaboration with UNAIDS organized a two-day meeting in the same context for Rubavu and Musanze districts which was held on 2nd and 3rd September 2015 at Dian Fossey Hotel, Rubavu.

In this meeting, participants were explained the form for Baseline of Pediatric Treatment data of RRP+ members to be completed by the members and preparation of Pediatric campaign.

- Baseline of Pediatric Treatment survey of RRP+ members

The small survey was conducted in association members of RRP+ in 5 districts (Nyarugenge, Kicukiro, Gasabo, Musanze and Rubavu). The survey was conducted to establish further evidence in treatment as regards pediatric. It would also be a basis for preparing and implementing the campaign to accelerate pediatric care and treatment at the community level.

The survey was conducted among 1412 families, members of RRP+ association in five districts mentioned above.

Respondents were from the five pilot districts and were as follows. : 449 Rubavu, 293 Musanze, 273 Nyarugenge, 199 Gasabo and 198 Nyarugenge Districts.

Results indicated that in those families, there are 1.967 boys (male) and 1.981 girls (females) in total are 3.948 children.

Among those children 84% (1.652 male) and 81.7% (1.619 female) were tested. Among the children tested 13.4% were HIV positive. Distracted from the children tested 89% were enrolled on treatment and among them only 10.6% known their status.

This survey has shown that, the HIV+ parent's needs to be sensitized to test their children and reveal their status to help them in reduction of stigma during their teenage.

- Preparation meeting for the campaign was also conducted in Musanze

It involved district officials (vice major in charge of social affairs, Director of health at the district hospital) district partners and RRP+ members at the district and national level.

The objective of the meeting was to re-enforce coordination of the complaint, identify the sector where it will take place and the role of each stake holder.

	<p>-Campaign on pediatric care and treatment conducted in busongo:</p> <p>The general objective of this campaign is to contribute to the reduction of new HIV infections, promote benefits of early HIV testing, enrolment into care programs and adherence on ART.</p> <p>With specific objectives of Creating awareness of the need to link communities and HIV service providers, Create a buy in for the community leaders and district authorities to be part of this campaign, engage the people living with HIV with special focus on women to take their children for care and treatment and create an opportunity for the youth to go for VCT.</p>			
<p>Status of implementation of main activities:</p>	<p>Main activities</p>	<p>Achievements</p>	<p>Status</p>	
	<p>Advocacy and orientation meeting, Kigali</p>	<p>45 people attended the event</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
	<p>Advocacy and orientation meeting, Rubavu</p>	<p>45 people attended the event</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
	<p>Baseline of Pediatric treatment survey</p>	<p>was conducted in Gasabo, Nyarugenge, Kicukiro, Musanze and Rubavu</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
	<p>Community mobilization and demand creation for paediatric</p> <p>Paediatric AIDS HIV testing and linkages to treatment and referral.</p>	<p>Was conducted in Rubavu with awareness messages combined with mobile HIV testing, counselling and referral. 75 people tested and 2 people were found HIV positive</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
	<p>Press conference on stigma awareness for PLWH with special focus on the youth</p>	<p>35 Media agency attended and 10 partner organisation attended documentary was posted on youtube link</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
	<p>Paediatric AIDS testing and linkages to treatment and referral.</p>	<p>Was conducted in Musanze busogo sector, with awareness messages combined with mobile HIV testing, counselling and referral. 199 people tested and 12 people were found HIV positive.</p> <p>Men negative:91 Men positive:5 Women negative 96 Women positive:7</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
<p>Summary of obstacles encountered in project implementation (if any)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resources to the Baseline Paediatric treatment data survey caused the time and space limits and its supervision Limited resource to conduct mobilisation and mobile VCT to all pi- 			

	loted districts where the survey was conducted.
Actions taken or re-quired to solve the problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to mobilise funds for full survey to establish barriers to paediatric care and treatment. • Allocate enough funds for community mobilisation for paediatric care and treatment and mobile VCT in the remaining districts and scale up to all districts, because the pilot campaign shown the need in community for pediatric testing •
Implementing partner	Réseau Rwandais des Personnes vivant avec le VIH (RRP+)